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**U.S. - VIETNAM COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE**

The United States and Vietnam completed the formal steps necessary for their bilateral copyright agreement to become effective, United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky announced today. The agreement, which was signed last year, grants U.S. copyrighted works such as motion pictures, sound recordings, software and books, legal protection in Vietnam for the first time. In the year since the agreement was concluded, the United States and Vietnam have worked closely together to ensure that Vietnam has in place the necessary legal and procedural machinery to implement the agreement effectively.

“The entry into force of this agreement fills the largest remaining gap in copyright protection for U.S. works in East Asia,” Ambassador Barshefsky said. “The development of implementation provisions by Vietnam over the past year has allowed us to take the steps necessary to put the agreement into effect. We look forward to working with Vietnam to ensure that protection for U.S. works is vigorously enforced.”

Under the terms of the agreement, both the United States and Vietnam committed to extend copyright protection to the other country’s works. Vietnam recently issued regulations extending copyright protection in Vietnam to U.S. works. This morning, President Clinton issued a proclamation extending copyright protection in the United States to Vietnamese works. A formal exchange of diplomatic notes was concluded this afternoon entering the Agreement into force.